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1. What was inside a bucket that a thief took from the back of an armored car in Midtown Manhattan in September?
2. Who does fantasy football expert Bill Dubiel like as a sleeper this week?
3. "Hamilton" star Leslie Odom Jr. covers which contemporary Christmas hit on his new album?

3 things you need to know

DEMOCRATS RE-ELECT PELOSI AS HOUSE LEADER

I U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi was re-elected to her post on Wednesday despite a challenge from a Rust Belt congressman who said the party needed new leadership after a disappointing showing in elections this month. Pelosi, 76, a Californian who has been in Congress for 30 years and led the party in the House for 14 of them, defeated 43-year-old Tim Ryan, a seven-term representative from the Youngstown area of northeastern Ohio in a 134-63 vote, aides said. U.S. voters elected Republican Donald Trump to the White House and Republicans kept their majorities in the House and Senate in the Nov. 8 elections. Ryan, in challenging Pelosi for the leadership job, said the party needed to do a better job of reaching out to the working-class voters who backed Trump. **REUTERS**



AT LEAST FIVE DEAD AFTER TORNADOES RIP THROUGH SOUTH

2 At least five people were killed and dozens more were injured after tornadoes tore through Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi overnight and into Wednesday morning, forecasters and local media reported. Three people were killed in the night in Rosalie, a small community in northeastern Alabama, where at least one tornado was reported by a weather spotter, the National Weather Service said on its website. "Nighttime tornadoes can be particularly dangerous since they are difficult to see and can be quick-moving, all while many people are asleep," the National Weather Service said in a statement. A couple was killed in Tennessee's Polk County, the Chattanooga Times Free Press reported, citing a law enforcement official. Several dozen others were injured in the state, including at least 20 people in McMinn County, ABC affiliate WATE reported. **REUTERS**

NETFLIX SUBSCRIBERS CAN BINGE-WATCH SHOWS OFFLINE

3 Video streaming pioneer Netflix Inc. has added an option that allows subscribers to download shows at no additional cost on their mobile device to watch without an internet connection. Netflix signaled in recent months it would add an offline viewing option to better compete as the streaming video market becomes more and more crowded. Amazon.com Inc.'s rival streaming video service, Prime Video, has had this option for about a year. While the new option announced on Wednesday is available for all of Netflix's subscribers, it could have greater appeal in international markets such as Africa and Asia, where internet service is less ubiquitous than it is in the United States. **REUTERS**

For more local news, visit metro.usMETRO.US
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016

Melissa Mark-Viverito, right, and Jimmy Van Bramer, left, unveil the video visitation expansion on a video visitation program for inmates. **OFFICE OF MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO.**

Video visitation at NYC libraries to easily connect families with inmates

The program will go citywide in 2017.



AMANDA MIKELBERG
@MetroNewYork
amanda.mikelberg@metro.us

The city will make novel use of its libraries with a video visitation program designed to ease the difficulty of visiting inmates at Rikers Island and the city's other hard-to-reach jails.

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito announced Wednesday that the city will spend \$600,000 to implement the program. The video-visitation services will be unrolled throughout 2017 at 22 libraries across the five bor-

oughs, so that friends and family of inmates may see their loved ones more frequently and more easily.

"In order to visit an incarcerated person at Rikers Island, friends and family members usually spend an entire day of travel for a one-hour visit," Mark-Viverito said at a news conference. The process to visit an inmate in person also requires rigorous security searches and wait times.

Peter Wagner, executive director of the Prison Policy Initiative that has been critical of districts across the country that are replacing in-person visitation with video visitation, said he

commends New York City for how it is utilizing this technology.

"This is positive because they are using it as a supplement. Video is not the same as in-person visitation, but it's sometimes easier. In some cases I've seen it often means banning in-person visits and pushing people to pay for contact. That is not what this appears to be, and it acknowledges how hard it is to get to the jail," Wagner told Metro.

He added that the cost of the program seems reasonable compared to other instances where he's seen "crazy numbers" for places that are much smaller

than New York City.

Visitors will be able to make a Skype-like call in the comfort of a private area at a library and with the resources of the library at hand. The incarcerated individual may also choose from a select number of books to read to their visitors.

"Reading is a critically important bonding experience for children and their parents, and Brooklyn Public Library's TeleStory program makes it possible for families separated by incarceration to read a book together as if they were in the same room," said Brooklyn Public Library President and CEO Linda E. Johnson in a news release.

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2039

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Man steals bucket full of gold flakes worth \$1.6M from armored truck

The 86-pound pail was in the back of a truck parked in a midtown Manhattan street.



NIKKI M. MASCALI
AMANDA MIKELBERG
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

He went for the gold. Police released several clips of surveillance video Tuesday that show a man walk down West 48th Street, spot an unattended bucket perched at the edge of the back of a truck, quickly scope the area and then make off with it.

The entire incident took place in the space of about 20 seconds on Sept. 29 between Fifth and Sixth Avenues.

The man calmly walked away with \$1.6 million worth of gold flakes that weighed 86 pounds. Although the five-gallon pail was opaque black and did not show its contents, the thief might have assumed it was valuable as it was on an armored truck in the heart of Manhattan's jewelry district, police said.

Clips then show



NYPD



NYPD

the man, estimated to be in his 50s, carrying the bucket down the crowded Fifth Avenue sidewalk without anyone noticing. He even sets it down on the

curb briefly to catch his breath before crossing the street. He allegedly then jumped into a van at 49th Street and Third Avenue, police said.

The thief and the

gold remain at large.

Loomis, the armored-truck company responsible for the valuable cargo, did not return requests for comment by press time. The company is offering a

\$100,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the thief, according to media reports.

Gold flakes, grain and beads are generally the product of melt of

either raw gold or jewelry, intended to be sold by weight, a jeweler told Metro.

The surveillance video can be seen online at Metro.us.

BRIEF

Donate to Metro's Toy Drive

In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help others and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said

Metro's Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen.

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to Metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic story on the homepage.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

It's good to receive a gift. It's better to give one. **METRO**

Police: Mother's boyfriend charged after 3-year-old Brooklyn boy hospitalized with skull fracture

A 3-year-old Brooklyn boy is in critical condition and his mother's boyfriend has been charged with four counts of assault in connection with his injuries, police said.

Salvatore Lucchesse, 24, was also charged with acting in a manner injurious to a child.

Authorities responded to a 911 call that said the child was in cardiac arrest at his home in Gravesend on Monday. When officers arrived, they found the child soiled and unconscious. Lucchesse told



ISTOCK

police the child slipped and hit his head in the shower, and that he had given the boy CPR.

Officials said the child's injuries include a fractured skull and lacerated spleen and liver, and are not consistent with those that can occur after CPR is administered. Investigators are still trying to determine how the 3-year-old's spleen and liver were injured. The child remained in critical condition and on a ventilator at Coney Island Hospital.

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Renderings show possible conversion of iconic Waldorf Astoria hotel

Plans are being finalized to convert a portion of the 44-story hotel into high-end condominiums and upgrade the remaining rooms into a five-star facility.



The Waldorf Astoria is arguably the world's most iconic Art Deco hotel. Finished in 1931, the twin-pinnacled, 625-foot tall structure has represented New York grandeur like no other. Gaining worldwide fame for its high-end suites and lavish events, the hotel has been the New York home for countless celebrities and diplomats, and has hosted every U.S. President since Herbert Hoover.

The hotel's next chapter of is now being written by Chinese insurer Anbang Insurance Group



ARX SOLUTIONS VIA CITY REALTY

who closed on the purchase of the property from Hilton Worldwide Holdings in early 2015 for \$1.95 billion. Plans are being finalized to convert a portion of the 44-story hotel into high-end condominiums and upgrade the remaining rooms into a five-star facility offering unparalleled customer experience. The three-year overhaul is set to begin next year with the hotel

slated to close on March 1, 2017, resulting in the layoffs of approximately 1,500 hotel employees. Hilton will continue to manage property after it reopens, per the Wall Street Journal.

Building permit applications were filed earlier this month and detail the building's room count will be shaved down to 840 keys between the 5th and 12th floors. Above, start-

ing on the 14th floor, 321 commodious residences and world-class amenities will be added. Global architectural office Skidmore Owings & Merrill are listed as the architects of record.

Architectural visualization firm, ArX Solutions produced a glossy portfolio of renderings dating from 2015 that show reinvigorated interiors and upgraded

amenity spaces. The webpage notes Silverstein Properties commissioned the renderings and film, though there have no previous reports that the developer is involved in the expected billion-dollar project.

The Waldorf Astoria, previously Waldorf=Astoria until Hilton dropped the "=" in 2009, was designed by Schutze & Weaver at the

tail end of New York's heroic Roaring 20's decade. Occupying a full city block between East 49th and 50th streets, the tower is one of the few pre-war buildings on Park Avenue below 59th Street that is not overwhelmed by the scale of neighboring International-style office towers. The monumentally-scaled structure opened as both the tallest and largest hotel in the world — its prior home on the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and 34th Street was replaced by the tallest building in the world, the Empire State Building.

The hotel's exterior was designated an official city landmark in 1993, and its many and extensive lobbies and meeting spaces were calendared for interior designation earlier this fall. Anbang has agreed to maintain the distinctive spaces and chief among preservationist concerns are the hotel's Art Deco mosaic by Louis Rigal in the Park Avenue foyer, the grand ballroom, Starlight Roof event hall, and the Peacock Alley Restaurant, inspired by the promenade that once connected the original Waldorf and Astoria hotels.

Recording: Soccer plane in Colombia crash was running out of fuel

The plane that crashed in Colombia and virtually wiping out an entire Brazilian soccer team was running out of fuel, had no electrical power, and was preparing for an emergency landing, according to the pilot's final words.

The disaster on Monday night killed 71 people and sent shock waves round the global soccer world.

Only six on board the LAMIA Bolivia charter flight survived, including three of the Chapecoense soccer squad en route to the biggest game in their history: the Copa Sudamericana final.

"Miss, LAMIA 933 is in total failure, total electrical failure, without fuel," Bolivian pilot Miguel

Quiroga was heard telling the control tower operator at Medellin's airport on the crackly audio played by Colombian media.

"Fuel emergency, Miss," he added, requesting urgent permission to land.

That matched the account from the co-pilot of an Avianca plane flying close by at the time. He said he overheard the LAMIA plane reporting it was out of fuel and had to land.

"Mayday mayday ... Help us get to the runway ... Help, help," Juan Sebastian Upegui described the LAMIA pilot as saying in an audio message also played by local media.

"Then it ended ... We all started to cry."

The BAe 146, made by BAE Systems Plc, slammed into a mountain next to La Union town outside Medellin. Besides the three players, a journalist and two crew members survived.

One survivor, Bolivian flight technician Erwin Tumiri, said he only saved himself by strict adherence to security procedure, while others panicked.

"Many passengers got up from their seats and started yelling," he told Colombia's Radio Caracol.

"I put the bag between my legs and went into the fetal position as recommended."

Bolivian flight attendant Ximena Suarez, another survivor, said the lights went out less

than a minute before the plane slammed into the mountain, according to Colombian officials in Medellin.

Of the players, goalkeeper Jackson Follmann was recovering from the amputation of his right leg, doctors said.

Another player, defender Helio Neto, remained in intensive care with severe trauma to his skull, thorax and lungs.

Fellow defender Alan Ruschel had spinal surgery.

Suarez and Tumiri were shaken and bruised but not in critical condition, medical staff said, while journalist Rafael Valmorbid was in intensive care for multiple rib fractures that partly collapsed a lung. REUTERS



Brazil's Chapecoense football club fans participate in a tribute to the players killed in a plane crash. GETTY IMAGES

Painful Varicose Veins & Swollen Legs?



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Trump to keep Manhattan federal prosecutor Bharara in post

Bharara's office has pursued an aggressive push against corruption in state and city politics, an agenda that could fit with Trump's vow to "drain the swamp" in Washington.

Preet Bharara, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan known for pursuing a series of cases targeting public corruption and crime on Wall Street, said on Wednesday he has agreed to remain in his post after Donald Trump becomes U.S. president.

Bharara, appointed to his position by Democratic President Barack Obama in 2009, told reporters following a meeting with the Republican president-elect at Trump Tower in Manhattan that Trump asked him to stay on during his administration and he accepted. Trump takes office on Jan. 20.

"We had a good meeting," Bharara said. "I said I would absolutely consider staying on. I agreed to stay on."

The announcement's timing, when Trump has not yet finished filling all Cabinet-level positions, was unusual. But some former prosecutors who served under Bharara said they were not surprised their former boss would be willing to remain as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

"I think Preet is an independent, law enforcement-minded prosecutor who loves his job and is clearly talented in it," said Arlo Devlin-Brown, a former chief of Bharara's public corruption unit who is now a partner at the law firm Covington & Burling.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, the incoming Senate Democratic leader who Bharara previously worked for as



U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara talks to the press at Trump Tower on another day of meetings with US President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

chief counsel, said Trump called him last week to ask what he thought about Bharara staying in his job.

"I am glad they met and am glad Preet is staying on," Schumer said in a statement. "He's been one of the best U.S. Attorneys New York has ever seen."

Those political investigations led last year to the convictions of former New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a Democrat, and former New York Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, a Republican, in separate corruption trials.

Bharara also brought dozens of successful cases against insider traders and was on the cover of Time magazine in 2012 with the headline "This man is busting Wall St."

Those cases include the 2011 conviction of Galleon Group founder Raj Rajaratnam, who is serving an 11-year prison term, and a \$1.8 billion settlement and plea deal in 2013 with hedge fund SAC Capital Advisors LP.

His 227-lawyer office also secured corporate settlements with companies including General Motors Co. and JPMorgan Chase & Co.; won several convictions and guilty pleas of former employees of Ponzi scheme operator Bernard Madoff; and prosecuted Suleiman Abu

*"He's been
one of the best
U.S. attorneys
New York has
ever seen."*

Schumer

Ghaith, a son-in-law of the late al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Bharara's office's priorities have often matched those set by Obama's Justice Department.

Amid an increase in civil rights investigations nationally, for example, Bharara's office joined a lawsuit that led to a settlement in 2015 aimed at reducing violence in New York City's Rikers Island jail complex.

How priorities set by the Justice Department under Trump's pick for attorney general, Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, affects the cases Bharara's office pursues remains unclear.

"Obviously there is likely to be some changes in priorities from Main Justice [the department's Washington headquarters], and the office will have to adjust to those," said Richard Zabel, who previously served as Bharara's deputy before becoming hedge fund Elliott Management's general counsel. REUTERS



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BRIEF

Levi's CEO asks shoppers to leave their guns at home

The chief executive of the Levi Strauss & Co jeans company waded into the U.S. gun control debate on Wednesday, with an open letter asking customers not to bring their firearms into its stores because doing so could make employees and other shoppers uncomfortable.

In an open letter published on the social media site LinkedIn, Levi's CEO Chip Bergh said

he respects gun rights, which are protected by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, but does not consider a clothing store an appropriate venue to carry firearms.

"It boils down to this: you shouldn't have to be concerned about your safety while shopping for clothes or trying on a pair of jeans. Simply put, firearms don't belong in either of those settings," Bergh said.

Bergh, who described him-

self as a former army officer and father, said a firearm carried into one of its stores recently went off inadvertently and injured the gun carrier.

He also noted that the San Francisco-based company, which traces its history to the 19th Century American West, has stores in places like Orlando, where a man in June killed 49 people while armed with an assault-style rifle in what ranked as the deadliest mass shooting

in modern U.S. history.

In a sign of how sensitive the topic is in the United States, he said the company would not ban guns from its stores but asked "responsible gun owners" to leave their firearms at home.

The 163-year-old company joins a long list of U.S. retailers including Target Corp, Sonic and Chili's that have asked their patrons to leave their guns at home.

REUTERS



Michael McQueary GETTY IMAGES

Award for Penn State whistleblower in Sandusky scandal rises to \$12M

A Pennsylvania judge on Wednesday awarded \$5 million to a former Penn State University assistant football coach who implicated Jerry Sandusky in the sexual assault of young boys, bringing to more than \$12 million the amount owed to the former assistant.

Judge Thomas Gavin of Centre County, Pennsylvania, ruled that Michael McQueary qualified as a whistleblower under a state law and that the school wrongfully fired him as retaliation for reporting Sandusky to school officials.

McQueary will be awarded \$4 million for past and future lost salary and \$1 million for reputational damage and humiliation over his firing, Gavin said in a written ruling.

The evidence was "overwhelming" that McQueary's firing was connected to his whistleblowing, the judge wrote.

Representatives for McQueary and Penn State could not immediately be reached for comment. Lawyers previously said they could not comment because Gavin had a gag order in place.

McQueary, who coached wide receivers for famed Penn State head coach Joe Paterno for eight seasons, said he witnessed Sandusky, a retired assistant football coach, having sex with a young boy in 2001, a decade before the scan-

dal became public and Sandusky was arrested.

McQueary reported what he saw at the time to Paterno and other school officials, but they chose not to tell authorities, according to state investigators.

McQueary later cooperated with investigators, implicating school officials in a cover-up.

Sandusky, now 72, was convicted in 2012 of molesting 10 boys and sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison.

Paterno was fired for his role in the Sandusky scandal and died months later. McQueary never worked anywhere of note after his dismissal, he said in his lawsuit, because other schools viewed him as damaged goods. The university contended that he lost his job because the new head coach, Bill O'Brien, did not want him.

McQueary also alleged in his whistleblower lawsuit that former Penn State President Graham Spanier defamed him in a public statement in 2011 that publicly defended others.

In an unusual arrangement, a jury ruled last month on defamation and misrepresentation claims made by McQueary against Penn State, awarding McQueary \$7.3 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

Gavin ruled separately on the whistleblower part of the lawsuit. REUTERS

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Trump says will back away from business to focus on White House

After Trump won the election, his company, the Trump Organization, had said it was looking at new business structures with the goal of transferring control to three of his adult children.

President-elect Donald Trump vowed on Wednesday to step back from running his global business empire to avoid conflicts of interest, as concern over his dual role mounts ahead of the Republican's inauguration on Jan. 20.

Trump, a real estate magnate who owns hotels and golf resorts from Panama to Scotland, said he will spell out at a Dec. 15 news conference how he will separate himself "in total" from his worldwide business holdings, which include a winery, modeling agency, and a range of other businesses.

Trump gave few details in a series of early morning tweets on Wednesday, but said "legal documents are being crafted which take me completely out of business operations" and said his children will attend the news conference. He did not say what the planned change might mean for ownership of his businesses.

His children are also on the executive committee of his White House transition team. His daughter Ivanka joined a telephone call his father had with Argentine President Mauricio Macri earlier this month and attended a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, raising concerns about possible conflicts of interests.

A brand name around the globe, Trump had previously argued that he had no need to separate himself from the Trump Orga-

nization, which includes a hotel down the street from the White House, a Manhattan tower where he lives and is running his transition to office, and a New Jersey golf course where he interviewed cabinet candidates earlier this month.

Trump said on Wednesday he is not required by law to alter his relationship with his business, but added: "I feel it is visually important, as president, to in no way have a conflict of interest with my various businesses."

As the Republican heads toward taking over the White House from President Barack Obama, scrutiny of potential conflicts has grown. Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill called for hearings on the issue.

Rules on conflict of interest for executive branch employees do not apply to the president, but Trump will be bound by bribery laws, disclosure requirements and a section of the U.S. Constitution that prohibits elected officials from taking gifts from foreign governments.

The nonpartisan Office of Government Ethics said in a statement it applauded Trump's aims, and recommended Trump completely divest his holdings rather than transfer control.

"As we discussed with your counsel, divestiture is the way to resolve these conflicts," the office tweeted. REUTERS

"As we discussed with your counsel, divestiture is the way to resolve these conflicts."

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1- "White Mulberry Supplement as Adjuvant Treatment of Obesity", Journal of Biological Regulators and Homeostatics Agents., Vol 28, no.1, 2014.

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Forbes: Taylor Swift, One Direction top list of highest-paid musicians

Pop star Taylor Swift, boy band One Direction and British singer Adele were the highest paid musicians in the world this year, Forbes magazine said on Wednesday.

With earnings of \$170 million from touring, recordings, endorsements and other income, Swift, 26, earned the title of 2016's highest paid musician. She pulled in a gross total of more than \$200 million on the North American portion of her "1989" world tour.

The "Bad Blood" singer was followed by One Direction, the English-Irish pop band, which brought in \$110 million, grossing \$200 million-plus for its recent On The Road Again Tour. Members of the band include Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Harry Styles,



Taylor Swift GETTY IMAGES

Louis Tomlinson and, previously, Zayn Malik.

Ranking third was "Hello" singer Adele, 28, with \$80.5 million, her highest earnings total yet. Adele, whose album "25" was the biggest seller of 2015, enjoyed continued success with album sales this year and grossed millions per night for her arena shows.

Madonna, whose recent "Rebel Heart" tour grossed \$170 million, was fourth with \$76.5 million,

which pushed her career total on the road to \$1.4 billion pretax, according to Forbes.

Rounding out the top 10 were Barbados-born Rihanna, who earned \$75 million, country star Garth Brooks (\$70 million), veteran rock band AC/DC (\$67.5 million), the Rolling Stones (\$66.5 million), DJ Calvin Harris (\$63 million) and music mogul Diddy (\$62 million).

Forbes compiled the list after estimating pretax income for the 12 months from June 2015 to 2016 based on interviews with managers, agents, lawyers and some of the stars. It also looked at data from the Pollstar, the Recording Industry Association of America and tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan. REUTERS



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US veterans to form human shield at Dakota pipeline protest

The protesters have spent months rallying against plans to route the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline beneath a lake near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation, saying it poses a threat to water resources and sacred Native American sites.

More than 2,000 U.S. military veterans plan to form a human shield to protect protesters of a pipeline project near a Native American reservation in North Dakota, organizers said, just ahead of a federal deadline for activists to leave the camp they have been occupying.

It comes as North Dakota law enforcement backed away from a pre-

vious plan to cut off supplies to the camp—an idea quickly abandoned after an outcry and with law enforcement's treatment of Dakota Access Pipeline protesters increasingly under the microscope.

Protesters include various Native American tribes as well as environmentalists and even actors including Shailene Woodley.

State officials issued an order on Monday for activists to vacate the Oceti Sakowin camp, located on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, citing harsh weather conditions.

The state's latest decision not to stop cars entering the protest site indicated local officials will not actively enforce Monday's emergency order to evacuate the camp issued by Gov. Jack Dalrymple.

Dalrymple warned on Wednesday that it was



A water protector carries a log to be chopped into firewood at Oceti Sakowin Camp on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. GETTY IMAGES

“probably not feasible” to reroute the pipeline, but said he had requested a meeting with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council to rebuild a relationship.

“We need to begin now to talk about how we are going to return to a peaceful relationship,” he said on a conference call.

The 1,172-mile pipeline project, owned by

Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners LP (ETP.N), is mostly complete, except for a segment planned to run under Lake Oahe, a reservoir formed by a dam on the Missouri River.

Veterans Stand for Standing Rock, a contingent of more than 2,000 U.S. military veterans, intends to go to North Dakota by this weekend and form a human wall

in front of police, protest organizers said on a Facebook page. Organizers could not immediately be reached for comment.

“I figured this was more important than anything else I could be doing,” Guy Dull Knife, 69, a Vietnam War Army veteran, told Reuters at the main camp.

Dull Knife, a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe from the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota, said he has been camping at the protest site for months. REUTERS

“I figured this was more important than anything else I could be doing.”

Guy Dull Knife, 69, a Vietnam War Army veteran

BRIEF

Abortion rights advocates challenge restrictions in three states

Abortion rights advocates on challenged laws restricting the procedures in three states, an aggressive push following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down a Texas law requiring abortions to be performed in surgical centers or hospitals.

The cases in Missouri, Alaska and North Carolina take aim at regulations requiring some or all abortions to be performed in hospitals or surgical centers, and in the case of North Carolina a ban on abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy unless there is a medical emergency.

“We are going to fight back state by state and law by law until every person has the right to pursue the life they want, including the right to decide to end a pregnancy,” said Dr. Raegan McDonald-Mosley, chief medical officer of Planned Parenthood Federation, which filed the lawsuits along with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Reproductive Rights.

In June, the Supreme Court struck down a Texas law imposing strict regulations on abortion doctors and facilities that its critics contended were designed to shut down abortion clinics. REUTERS

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Fed says US wage and price gains still modest; activity mixed

The U.S. economy continued to expand in October and November, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday, but there were only modest gains in wages and prices and the strong dollar was weighing on manufacturers.

Seven of the central bank's 12 districts around the country reported a tightening in labor market conditions, the Fed said in its Beige Book report of anecdotal information collected from business contacts.

The Fed said activity varied across regions but that the outlooks were mainly positive, with six districts expecting "moderate" growth.

"As in the past four Beige Books, wage growth was characterized generally as modest, on bal-

ance, by district contacts," the Fed said.

A lack of wage pressures has been a thorn in the Fed's side as it seeks to raise interest rates. Despite the U.S. labor market nearing full employment, economists have yet to see that spark broad-based higher wages and in turn higher inflation.

Central bank policymakers have sought in recent weeks to lay the groundwork for a possible interest rate hike this year after holding off earlier amid economic uncertainty.

Uncertainty over the Nov. 8 presidential election was reported as causing a modest softening of activity in some districts, including vehicle sales in the St. Louis and Rich-



Ford assembly plant in Wayne, Michigan GETTY IMAGES

mond, Virginia, districts and hiring activity in Cleveland, the Fed said.

Hiring activity was uneven among districts, as Boston reported "fairly strong activity" with staffing firm revenues increasing 10 percent to 25 percent year-on-year. Staffing firms in Cleveland attributed a modest decline in job openings and placements to election uncertainty. REUTERS

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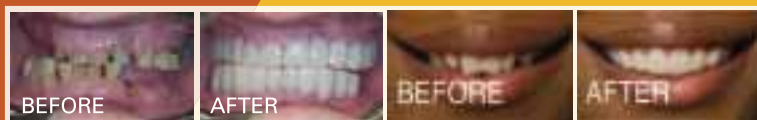
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**FBI set to gain expanded
hacking powers as
Senate effort to block fails**

The government will have "unprecedented authority to hack into Americans' personal phones, computers and other devices," Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden said.

Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden
TWITTER@RONWYDEN

A last-ditch effort in the Senate to block or delay rule changes that would expand the federal government's hacking powers failed Wednesday, despite concerns the changes would jeopardize the privacy rights of innocent Americans and risk possible abuse by the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump.

Sen. Ron Wyden attempted three times to delay the changes which will take effect on Thursday and allow U.S. judges to be able to issue search warrants that give the FBI the authority to remotely access computers in any jurisdiction, potentially even overseas. His efforts were blocked by Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the Senate's second-ranking Republican.

The changes will allow judges to issue warrants in cases when a suspect uses anonymizing technology to conceal the location of his or her computer or for an investigation into a network of hacked or infected computers, such as a botnet.

Magistrate judges

subject to congressional approval, was especially troubling in the hands of an administration of President-elect Trump, a Republican who has "openly said he wants the power to hack his political opponents the same way Russia does."

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware and Republican Sen. Steve Daines of Montana also delivered speeches voicing opposition to the rule changes.

can currently only order searches within the jurisdiction of their court, which is typically limited to a few counties.

In a speech from the Senate floor, Wyden said that the changes to Rule 41 of the federal rules of criminal procedure amounted to "one of the biggest mistakes in surveillance policy in years."

He added that such authority, which was approved by the Supreme Court in a private vote earlier this year, but was not

The Justice Department has pushed for the changes to the federal rules of criminal procedure for years, arguing they are procedural in nature and the criminal code needed to be modernized for the digital age.

In an effort to address concerns, U.S. Assistant Attorney General Leslie Caldwell wrote a blog post this week arguing that the benefits given to authorities from the rule changes outweighed any potential for "unintended harm."

REUTERS

"The possibility of such harm must be balanced against the very real and ongoing harms perpetrated by criminals — such as hackers, who continue to harm the security and invade the privacy of Americans through an ongoing botnet, or pedophiles who openly and brazenly discuss their plans to sexually assault children."

Caldwell

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Hillary Clinton surprises Katy Perry at UNICEF gala

Katy Perry was the honoree at UNICEF's annual Snowflake Ball on Tuesday night. The "Roar" singer has raised more than \$1 million for the global children's organization and was the recipient of its Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian award. But her biggest honor may have come from the surprise guest who presented the 32-year-old with the award. In only her second appearance since losing the presidential election,

Hillary Clinton praised Perry for "powerful voice," according to the Hollywood Reporter. Clinton insisted, "We need champions like Katy now more than ever." The megastar, who fiercely campaigned for Clinton, was brought to tears over the heartfelt acknowledgment.

Perry's family and the special man in her life were in the audience to celebrate the accomplishment. Oh, hi, Orlando Bloom.

the word

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It looks like Liam Payne is having a baby

Seems that in addition to their individual solo projects, some of members of boy band One Direction have been busier than others since their hiatus. Louis Tomlinson has been on dad duty since the birth of his son in January. And from the looks of things, band

mate Liam Payne is about to follow in his footsteps.

When Liam stepped out with his girlfriend, singer Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, in London on Tuesday night, TMZ captured photos of Cheryl sporting a green dress, black boots, and a growing baby bump.

The couple, who both rose to prominence in pop groups (she was a member of Girls Aloud) started dating earlier this year.

It looks like they got the ball rolling pretty quickly, as Cheryl appears to be in her second trimester. But we're not judging.



Khloé Kardashian shuts down sweatshop comment about denim brand

If you didn't already know, Khloe Kardashian just launched a denim brand called Good American. The jeans, sold by retailers like Nordstrom, are made with curvy girls in mind, because, duh, a Kardashian made them.

The 32-year-old recently took fans inside her denim factory on — also duh — Snapchat. But one

viewer had her own theory about how the jeans are made. The Twitter user said Khloe had a sweatshop working on her jeans, and the reality star didn't take kindly to that at all.

She clapped back, "Watch your mouth. All make salaries and all are employed in la! Know your info before you chime in." She followed up with: "It means a lot to me to fight to make my denim in the US, and to be employing good wages to all of my hard-working employees!"

At over \$150 a pop, her garment workers better be getting paid a living wage.



Justin Bieber jokes that 'hell is Instagram'

Justin Bieber tried out a new comedy routine on the final stop of his Purpose world tour in London on Tuesday night. A few jokes from the "Sorry" singer were a welcome reprieve from his lashing out at fans for screaming too loud at a concert in October.

The crooner, who deleted his Instagram

page in August, asked his audience if they thought he should bring it back. But they were let down when he joked "Nah, I don't want to get my Instagram back. Instagram is for the devil. I'm sure ... I think hell is Instagram. I'm, like, 90 percent sure." He went on, "We get sent to hell and we get, like, locked in the Instagram

server. Like, I'm stuck in the DMs. I'm trying to climb my way out and I can't."

He's not the only celeb who thinks IG can be a bit overwhelming. Kendall Jenner took a break from the photo-sharing app earlier this month. We guess having millions of adoring fans is stressful.



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Should we trust our devices?

things to do

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Inside The Glass Room, you'll learn how much your devices and the internet know about you — and how to change it. PROVIDED

In The Glass Room, art (and real products) test our comfort zone in the sharing age.



EVA KIS
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We can't live without them, but how much should we trust our smartphones? If you really want the answer to that question, a new art exhibit reveal the answer.

Appropriately named The Glass Room, the

NoLiTa pop-up gallery gleams just like an Apple store that sprang up on Mulberry Street, shiny-white and full of iPads and other devices on pedestals. Instead of the latest gadget though, each piece is an artwork meant to confront visitors with just how little they know about how the internet works, government surveillance, fake news and that little device in all our pockets that probably knows us better than our best friends.

"We want to engage people in thinking about

those topics, the health of the internet and how to take control of their on-line lives," says Mark Surman, executive director of the Mozilla Foundation, which is presenting the exhibit.

Like the gadgets on sale at any gleaming modern technology store, each piece is meant to draw visitors in. "They're pieces that very often start with a fun thing or provocation, but they all confront these issues on a deeper level," explains Stephanie Hankey, executive director of Tactical Technology

Collective, which curated the show.

Gadgets include the speculative, like an ordinary-looking wall plug that's in fact hijacked the Glass Room's Wi-Fi, allowing users to change headlines on pages that look like they belong to major news organizations. There's a point here about the rise of fake news sites, of course, but also a broader question of how much should we trust public wi-fi networks.

There are also very real devices in use today. Think no one will notice

if you skipped church services this week? Churchix software uses face recognition to take attendance, so even if the big man upstairs isn't keeping score, someone else is.

If all this is making you anxious, there's a better solution than going off the grid. At the back of the gallery is a Data Detox Bar, where ingenious technicians will dispense advice on how to take control of your privacy by better understanding how your phone works and the things you do every day online.

If you go

The Glass Room
Through Dec. 14
Noon-8 p.m.
201 Mulberry St.
Free, theglassroomnyc.org

"[The exhibits] are not saying technology is bad or good," says Hankey, "more like the middle ground in between that we should explore and the points of curiosity we should have."

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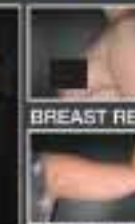
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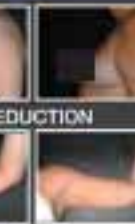
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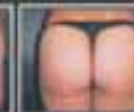
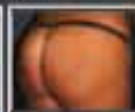
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South Street Seaport

Appropriate for its location, in what used to be NYC's busiest shipping hub, the South Street Seaport's massive 60-foot Norway spruce is decked with constellation-themed ornaments inspired by the tools used by sailors. Get your nautical photo ops in, then browse the holiday outpost of the Hester Street Fair, which has come downtown (and indoors) with a collection of 32 indie vendors open daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m. through Dec. 24.

117 Beekman St.

Madison Square Park

The Tree of Light is a beacon of cheer at 40 feet tall, and from Dec. 6-18 it'll get an extra helping of holiday magic from a life-size gingerbread house. The Taste of Home Gingerbread Boulevard is back for its third season, but this time with one home made of ginger "bricks" where you can walk inside, decorate a virtual Christmas tree and add your photo to a digital mantle.

American Museum of Natural History

The decorations adorning

the museum's signature Origami Holiday Tree are truly handmade: Artists from all over the world donate their time and talent to create the over 1,000 ornaments. There's a new theme every year, and if (like us) your favorite part of the museum is the dinosaurs, then this year's "Dinosaurs Among Us"-themed tree will feel even more special.

City Hall Park

Even the spectacle of Rockefeller Center can't upstage the uniqueness of City Hall's holiday display. There's not just one Christmas tree in the small public park that is, essentially, its front lawn — the entire fountain at the heart of the park is drained for the holiday season and filled with light strung trees, nestled among other winter plants like juniper and boxwood. The antique streetlamps around the park lend an old New York feel — you can almost hear Frank Sinatra singing Christmas standards.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Combining art and history, the museum's 20-foot blue spruce is hung with 18th-century Neapolitan Baroque angels and cherubs inside the Medieval Sculpture Hall, as has been the tradition since 1925. Underneath the tree is an elaborate 121-piece nativity scene, set in front of a painting of a Spanish choir with seasonal music playing all month long.



Rockefeller Center

There's a reason this tree is not just New York City's official Christmas tree, but the whole country's. This year's Norway spruce is the second tallest ever at 94 feet, lighted with more than 50,000 multicolored LEDs and topped with a star taller than a person. Instead of presents underneath, the tree itself is a gift — when its job is done on Jan. 7, Habitat for Humanity will mill it into lumber to build new homes.

GETTY IMAGES



PROVIDED

Langham Place, New York

The hotel's signature pink color inspired this year's Christmas "tree." Instead of the usual evergreen, the florists at Luxe Bloom used 3,500 preserved roses to create a Christmas tree that will stay beautiful for at least 60 days, without water or refrigeration. See the tree in the hotel's lobby, then browse its Art Market Pop-Up for usable art objects from candles to a Magic 8 Ball by Curtis Kuling. 400 Fifth Ave.



PROVIDED

The Plaza Hotel

The city's most famous hotel keeps its decorations pretty subdued, which just amps up the "wow" factor when you glimpse the lobby's towering tree, decorated this year for the first time all in white. A pile of gold and silver presents are already piled underneath — perhaps because you can find Santa Claus downstairs in the Plaza Food Hall and Shops, with tons of holiday treats to eat and gift. 768 Fifth Ave.



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YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW**THEATER****"Kevin!!!!!!"**

Comedy squad Recent Cutbacks take your favorite movies and re-enact them, with a needed dose of parody. After tackling "Jurassic Park" and "Lord of the Rings," their holiday show takes on the antics of America's most dangerous child, Kevin McAllister of "Home Alone." The production includes live projections, puppets and a four-person choir — merry Christmas, ya filthy animals!

Dec. 1-Jan. 7
The Striker, 123 E. 24th St.
\$15, thepit-nyc.com

"Tiny Beautiful Things"

It's common to feel blue around the holidays, even when it's not an election year. Fear not, the Public Theater brings a story of hope and resilience with "Tiny Beautiful Things." Adapted for the stage by "Wild" author Cheryl Strayed, the play is in doubly good hands with director Thomas Kail ("Hamilton"). The story follows an advice columnist who has to dig deep inside herself when she's confronted with life's toughest questions.

Dec. 7-31

Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St.
\$70-\$85, publictheater.org

COMEDY**Broad Comedy**

Harnessing that all-girl comedy magic that saved the latest "Ghostbusters" (you know you loved it), Broad Comedy offers that thrilling what-won't-she-say Amy Schumer-Samantha Bee-Jessica Williams vibe in an unstoppable blend of live sketch comedy and musical satire. And they just happen to be in NYC this week to riff on the latest cultural news and gossip — and they're not afraid to talk politics, so come wearing your big-kid pants.

Dec. 1, 7 p.m.
The Triad, 158 W. 72nd St.
\$25, broadcomedy.com

"Longing Lasts Longer"

Legendary New York entertainer and mouthy femme fatale Penny Arcade visits St. Ann's Warehouse in the limited run of her new show, "Longing Lasts Longer," a blend of memoir and comedy musing on NYC's tragic decades-long downgrade in both character and stamina. And it won't take the full 75 minutes to know that

Band of Merry-makers

This self-proclaimed "holiday supergroup" certainly boasts the talent to back it up (especially if you really, really loved the '00s). One stage will boast names like Mark McGrath, Lisa Loeb, Constantine Maroulis and songwriter Sam Hollander. Seen last year at the Rockefeller tree lighting ceremony, the group travels the country sharing holiday cheer with a mix of holiday standards and the hits that made them household names.

Dec. 1, 8 p.m.
B.B. King's, 237 W. 42nd St.
\$47.50-\$80, bbkingblues.com

this nightlife maven's got the experience to inform her offbeat, insightful, hilarious opinions, either. Brooklyn beware, no borough is spared.

Dec. 4-11, St.
45 Water St., Brooklyn
\$35, stannswarehouse.org

MUSIC**The Skivvies**

'Tis the season for meeting with



PROVIDED

friends, sipping spiked cider and watching singers get naked while they trot out a parade of zany friends to entertain you. Yes, there's nothing like a Skivvies show at Christmastime. The cabaret scene favorites will perform holiday covers in their undies along with special guests like Randy Harrison, B.D. Wong, Nick Adams, Lindsay Nicole Chambers and more. (When people are getting naked onstage, you've gotta leave a few things to the

imagination.)
Dec. 7, 9:30 p.m., Joe's Pub,
425 Lafayette St., \$35,
joespub.com

PARTY**Great Gatsby Party**

You don't need to wait for next summer's Jazz Age Lawn Party to don your most dapper suit or drop-waist dress and get transported back to the 1920s. Now in its second year, the Great Gatsby Party offers two nights of decadence that live up to Fitzgerald's iconic novel, with champagne flowing, live music all night, plentiful sweet desserts and dazzling aerial shows. Speaking of which: Tickets are flying, but there's always a wait list if the experience tier you're eyeing sells out.

Dec. 2-3, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Capitale, 130 Bowery
\$75-\$2,000
thegreatgatsbyparty.com

DRINKS**Ugly Sweater Pub Crawl**

You know when your friend has that one ironic ugly sweater party and you're like, "When am I ever

going to wear this thing again?" Well, you can double your thrift store money's worth by attending the Ugly Sweater Pub Crawl, now in its sixth year in the East Village. Meet up at Bar None to register and then visit 10 participating bars with food and drink specials, like \$3 drafts and half-off well drinks. Participating bars include Bar None, Village Pourhouse, Central Bar, Coyote Ugly, The Hard Swallow and Pinks Bar. Just don't be too naughty — remember, Santa can still change his mind about what goes in your stocking.

Dec. 3, 3 p.m.-4 a.m.
Bar None, 98 Third Ave.
\$7.25, pubcrawls.com

Battle of the Belgians

Compare over 20 brews at Jimmy's No. 43 and help choose the ultimate winner this weekend during the seventh annual Battle of the Belgians. You'll taste beers straight from Belgium, plus American ales inspired by the original — and if you don't think a local pour should beat the real thing, you should definitely show up to see what our hometown brewers can do. There'll also be a whole roasted hog to pad your belly, or plenty of vegetarian entrees if you swing that way.

Dec. 3, noon-3 p.m.
43 E. Seventh St., \$65,
jimmysno43.com

GAME**Punderdome 3000**

Ready for what will surely be an evening of holiday-related puns? The best part of Punderdome 3000 at Littlefield is that they hold over 100 tickets for the door, since the event regularly sells out, so if you need a dose of comedy next Tuesday, they'll be waiting. Punderdome is basically a live game show full of silly word play (and a full bar, of course). Plus, the jokes are at least a few steps up from dad jokes; you surely got enough of those at Thanksgiving.

Dec. 6, 8 p.m.
622 DeGraw St., Brooklyn
littlefieldnyc.com
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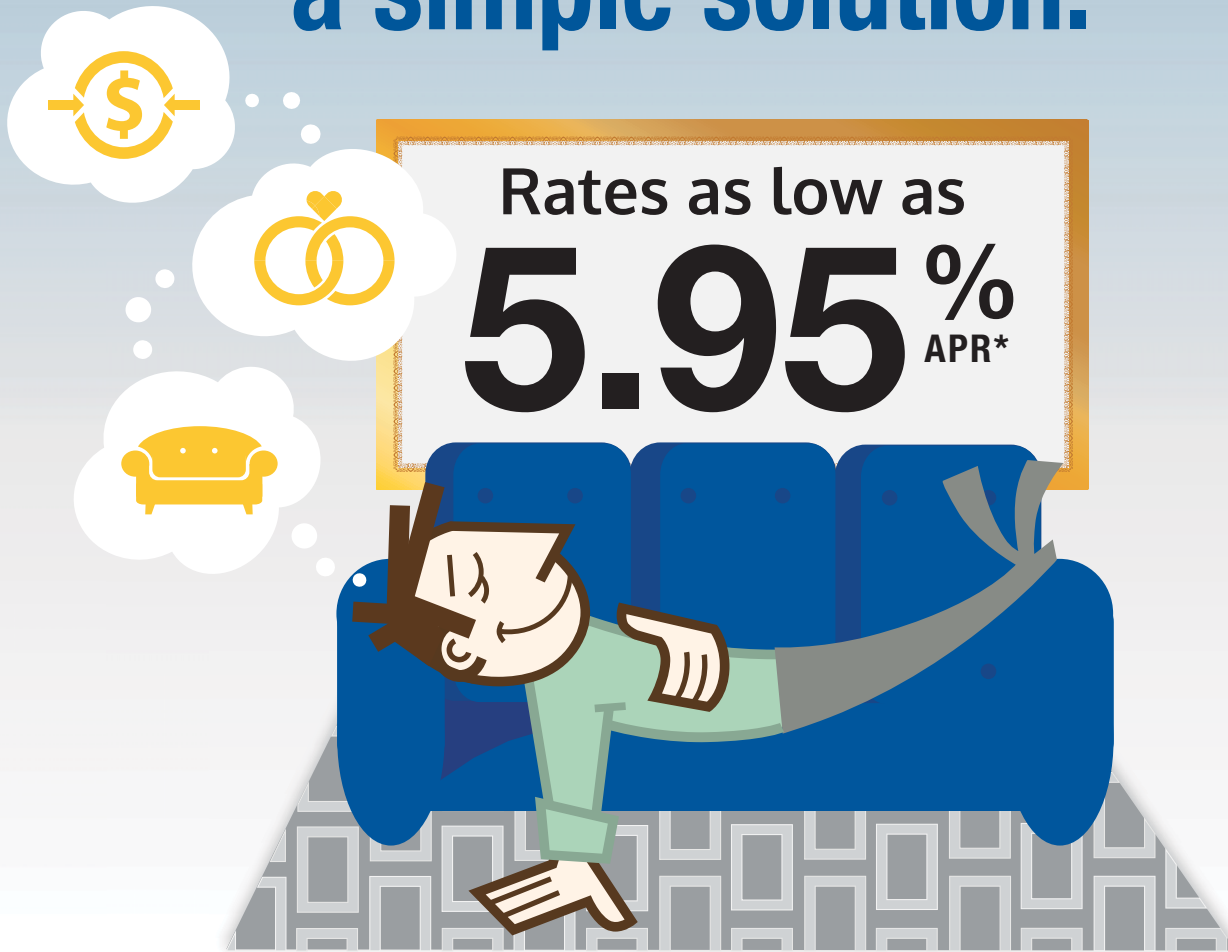
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Ken Fulk penguin shaker, \$99, potterybarn.com



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Stop — I'm blushing

Pink marble serving board, \$78, leifshop.com



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Too pretty to unwrap

Deco three-soap gift box, \$50, clausporto.com



Drink your greens

Lettuce ware pitcher, \$148, toryburch.com



A sparkling vessel for snacks and rings

Jess Panza "Coquille" bowls, \$75 each, ab-chome.com



Because even the mostess likes some solid advice

"Host: A Modern Guide to Eating, Drinking and Feeding Your Friends" by Eric Prum and Josh Williams, \$35, wandpdesign.com



Set the mood

Yay! Champagne flutes, \$38, iluandgeorgia.com



Continued on page 28

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Continued from page 26

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016



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Waterman Canteen, \$29.95, corkcicle.com



Home is where all the wine is

Bottle House stopper, \$8 each, areaware.com



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Roar + Rabbit patterned cachepot, \$19, westelm.com



Such a succulent

Cathy's Concepts monogram glass terrarium, \$58, nordstrom.com



Be the big spoon

Madewell x Food52 wooden spoon set, \$29, madewell.com



Your new favorite fry condiment

Bushwick Kitchen Weak Knees gochujang sriracha, \$9.99, bushwickkitchen.com

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Shop and Shoot Hoops at the NBA Store

If you would like to find the perfect holiday gifts for sports fans of all ages, while shopping in a super-fun setting, there is one destination this season that you can't miss – The NBA's 5th Avenue Flagship store!



The NBA store carries the most extensive, ultimate selection of basketball team merchandise for fans of all 30 teams. It houses the largest in-store collection of official NBA, WNBA, and NBA D-League merchandise for men, women and kids all under one roof.

You can find something for everyone on your holiday shopping list, including limited edition Christmas Day jerseys, t-shirts, outerwear, footwear, socks, accessories and more!

Be the hit of your holiday party or give the gift that's sure to make someone stand out with the new Ugly Sweater collection, complete with a "Light it Up" version that illuminates with the push of a button.

Fans can take a trip down memory lane and browse their memorabilia section, complete with throwbacks that are curated in the NBA Hardwood Classics



section. Some very special collectibles include Michael Jordan signed basketballs and sneakers, a Steph Curry signed, "Baby Face Assassin" framed jersey, and a Kobe Bryant 18 karat gold, "24" fitted cap which was released when he retired from the game. Dream Team collectibles are sure to make you remember some of basketball's most memorable moments.

Keep the whole family warm this winter with new items like their light-up knit hat and scarf sets, phone-friendly texting gloves, and large selection of hoodies, sweaters and jackets.

The interactive store features an array of activities to choose from – personalize a jersey for a unique gift on the lower level, create your own digital trading card, go head-to-head in Pop a Shot, or even test your gaming skills on the NBA 2K17 consoles.

The NBA store is located on New York's storied 5th Avenue, at 45th Street, just a hop, skip and a jump away from Manhattan's historic Grand Central Station. Call (212) 457 3120. Visit their website at nba.com/nycstore, or shop online at NBASTore.com.

Be sure to post pics of your new goodies with hashtag #NBASToreNYC.





"Don't Waste Your Wishes," The Killers

With a title like that, don't expect too much mirth and cheer from the Killers' Christmas album to benefit Bono's AIDS charity, (RED). But who says the holidays are all gumdrops and mistletoe anyway? Tracks include star-studded, sort of grim sing-alongs, including a western-twanged rendition of "I'll Be Home for Christmas."



"A Very Kacey Christmas," Kacey Musgraves

Wacky, whimsical country star Kacey Musgraves embraces her full Kacey-ness in her appropriately titled holiday release. She's a lil bit country, a lil bit neo-soul, a lil bit old-school Crosby and a lil bit Caribbean with collaborators like Willie Nelson and Trigger ("A Willie Nice Christmas") and Leon Bridges ("Present Without a Bow").



"Christmas Party," She & Him

A follow-up to 2011's "A Very She & Him Christmas," Zoëy Deschanel and M. Ward pump out stripped-down versions of all the favorites, with guest stars Jenny Lewis, the Chapin Sisters and Sonic Youth drummer Steve Shelley. Deschanel's daughter Elise even makes an appearance with a sweet "squee" that's sure to melt your heart.



"Tis the Season," Jimmy Buffett

Buffett's sophomore Christmas album is the jingling, ukulele-strumming party-pleaser you'd expect it to be. The follow-up to "Christmas Island" includes a "Parrothead Version" of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" that features "nine pairs of flip-flops," "five cheeseburgers" and "a purple parrot in a palm tree."

New holiday albums to get and to gift

Because you can't rock around the Christmas tree in silence. **RACHEL RACZKA**



"A Pentatonix Christmas," Pentatonix

A ca-lujah! The Texan vocalists are back with their second holiday album since 2014's "That's Christmas to Me." The "Sing-Off"-famous group's release features a cover of Nsync top 40 classic "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays," and a fittingly haunting, reverberating rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." Tissues, please.



"Merry Christmas from Andra Day," Andra Day

Grammy nominated R&B songstress Andra Day released a 5-track EP ahead of a spree of TV appearances in December, including Empire's "White Hot Holidays" variety special on Fox Dec. 7. Day duets with country star Jennifer Nettles on "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman" and "Someday at Christmas" alongside the legendary Stevie Wonder.



"Simply Christmas," Leslie Odom Jr.

Tony-winning "Hamilton" star Leslie Odom Jr. may have parted ways with Broadway earlier this year, but that doesn't mean he's out of the spotlight just yet. His collection of favorites includes soulful, jazzy interpretations of "First Noel" and "The Christmas Song," as well as a cover of Ingrid Michaelson and Sara Bareilles' beloved "Winter Song."



Honorary mention

It's not a new release for this year, but perhaps it went under your radar in 2015: Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings' "It's a Holiday Soul Party" seems appropriately sad but joyful this season. The late, great singer's first and only foray into holiday LPs includes a soulful salute to the "8 Days (of Hanukkah)" and toe-tappin' funk fest, "Ain't No Chimneys in the Projects."

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Get sporty

The Conchi is Aruba's famous natural pool, carved by the sea from volcanic rocks. ALL PHOTOS ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY

A vacation to Aruba is all about getting outdoors. Here's your guide to enjoying it to the fullest.

ED CONDRAN
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It's endless summer in Aruba. Because it sits just outside the hurricane belt in the southern Caribbean, there is no rainy season. Its white sand is cool, humidity remains low all year and the turquoise waters surrounding the island nation are always warm. And it's all just a four-hour flight from New York.

Because we're about to spend three months cooped up indoors for

the winter, we booked a flight from Newark to Aruba (\$352 nonstop roundtrip on United) to enjoy the sunshine and get in some of the workouts we're sure to miss once snow begins to fall.

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa (deluxe ocean view room, \$261 a night) was home base. The rooms are ample; however, it's about location. The low-key beach at Manchebo is the widest on the 19.6-mile island. Free yoga and pilates classes are held on the beach, and after some laps in the water, there are plenty of palapa huts to enjoy the resort's serenity and seclusion.

When it's time for adventure, at the top of your list should be a visit to **Conchi**, the island's natural pool. In this age

of immediacy, Conchi is a reminder that it's worthwhile to expend a bit of effort — the pool is accessible only by foot or off-road vehicle. The terrain surrounding the pristine pool is rugged, so bring proper footwear. You can rent a Jeep, but it's not recommended to drive yourself. You'll want a tour guide with a driver's license to get you there — we found ours through TripAdvisor for

\$107 per person.

Water sprays over rocks as the tide rushes to the shore, with unusual formations reminiscent of Big Sur. The water has worn away the volcanic stone, creating what is known as the natural pool. Climb down carefully along the slippery rocks, and you'll find a calm and inviting pond to swim in as the ocean waves crash and ebb just feet away.



Diving the Antilla shipwreck

For a closer look at the Caribbean Sea's wildlife, go snorkeling off the leeward coast of the island. A half-day **Luncheon Snorkel Sail** (\$81.99 per person, via-tor.com) includes a buffet with delicious local curries and stews. The experience is worth the dive to check out the **Antilla**, a German merchant ship, which was sunk in 1940 after Germany invaded Holland. The 400-foot long cargo ship has been perfectly preserved.

Back on dry land, get in a round of beach tennis — it's like a more intense badminton. The popular Aruban game requires a mini-racket, a tennis ball and a lower net, and is played on the sand. **The Tropicana Resort & Casino** boasts the

largest beach tennis facility in the world, with courts available without a reservation (\$30 per half-hour, \$50 per hour).

And because a long day's adventure should be rewarded with a great meal, make sure your dinner plans include **The Old Man and the Sea**. Yes, the papaya fish (red snapper with confetti polenta and their signature papaya sauce) is tangy and lives up to its hype. But what put the experience over the top was the drink, a fruity rum cocktail, in our hand while we dug our toes in the sand, as the gentle breeze made for another idyllic sunset.

According to the Aruba Tourism Authority, more than half of those who visit return, and it's easy to see why.



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Bangkok in a day

Your guide to making the most of 24 hours in Thailand's bustling capital city.

Fodor's Travel

Electric and chaotic, Bangkok is teeming with a dizzying variety of sights and activities. But what should you do if you're in the city only for a short time?

Visit a temple

The Grand Palace and Wat Po are the major temples on every Bangkok to-do list. But with overwhelming crowds throughout the day, they are victims of their own notoriety. You can still experience Bangkok's

magnificent temples on a tight schedule by going a bit off the beaten path. Wat Suthat, a stunning temple in the Old City, is home to a bronze Buddha more than 25 feet tall. The main hall is impressively decorated in floor-to-ceiling murals that date from 1850 and depict the Jakata Tales, stories of the previous lives of Buddha. More than 150 smaller but just as spectacular Buddha statues decorate the cloisters surrounding the complex.

Try the street food

Bangkok is synonymous with street food, and for good reason. Everywhere you turn, there's a stall hawking all sorts of dishes from pad thai to som tam and mango

sticky rice, to more adventurous fare like balut (fertilized duck eggs) and durian. If you're shopping on Khao San Road, you might as well stop to grab a bite, as this street is just as noteworthy for its street food. Although vibrant at any time of day, Khao San Road really comes alive once the sun goes down, and that includes a multiplying bevy of food options. Venture over to Chinatown for appetizing delicacies that go beyond Thai cuisine. But don't limit yourself to these two locations; a turn down any street corner or bustling alleyway will yield busy food stalls offering satisfying culinary rewards.

Go on a canal tour

Bangkok is known as the Venice of the East, thanks to its winding network of canals. Known as klongs, these waterways used to be the main means of transportation in Bangkok and are still a back alley to local life. It's not unusual to see modest shacks next to modern

townhouses as you cruise along the waterways.

There are also temples, restaurants and other sites that are accessible if you're looking to stretch your legs and explore.

Enjoy a puppet show

The ancient art of Thai puppetry is still an active tradition in Bangkok. Elaborately carved puppets are each manipulated by several puppeteers on the same stage, acting out traditional folk tales with delightfully emotive storytelling that transcends any language barrier. Avoid the touristy theaters and check out a more unique experience at Baan Silapin Artist's House. This artist's collective space sits on Klong Bangkok Yai, in an open-air canal house with rustic wooden decor that, although renovated, is more than 200 years old.

Take a tuk tuk ride

A visit to Bangkok is not complete without an exhilarating ride in one of these unique vehicles.



Grab a bite from a boat along the city's canals. GETTY IMAGES

Essentially a motorbike with a colorful cabin for passengers behind the driver, these mini taxis zip along streets at a frenetic pace. Be sure to negotiate the rate and destination before getting in, and don't let the driver make pit stops to other sights or shops. Oh, and hold on tight.

Lounge at a rooftop bar

To really experience Bangkok in all its vast

glory, you have to see it from up high. There's no better way to do that than with a cool cocktail in hand at one of the many rooftop bars, like Moon Bar at the Banyan Tree Hotel. Sitting 61 stories high, this rooftop bar offers stunning 360 degree views as well as deliciously unique cocktails like the lychee ginger smash. If the weather suddenly turns you can head downstairs to the equally impressive Vertigo Too Lounge.

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Lesser Jags WR doing some damage

Allen Robinson is the big name in Jacksonville, but third-year receiver Marqise Lee was quietly, consistently productive for the Jags in November. Lee has

received 28 looks in his last four games, parlaying that into 16 catches for 223 yards and two touchdowns. With tight end Julius Thomas hurt yet again and Allen Hurns dealing with a hamstring issue, Lee should be able to continue his productive ways despite a tough matchup against the Broncos in Week 13.

Time-share tipping in Baltimore

While Terrance West was cemented as the RB1 in Baltimore for the early part of the season, the emergence of a healthy Kenneth Dixon should have West's owners sweating. The timeshare that has been developing over the last few weeks finally shifted in Dixon's favor, with the dynamic rookie out-touching West 17 to 16. Dixon was also more productive overall



You shouldn't be depending on Carolina's Greg Olsen at this stage in the season. GETTY IMAGES

thanks to his four catches for 31 yards. It's becoming increasingly clear that the Ravens are looking to shift toward Dixon, who has a much brighter future than West. He merits flex consideration this week and could evolve into an RB2 if West continues to fade.

Olsen cold streak no fluke

Carolina Panthers tight end Greg Olsen thrived in the early part of the season—his production was so prolific that he's still the TE1 on the season. However, he has severely disappointed his owners since the Panthers' Week 7 bye. In that time, Olsen is averaging 3.8 catches per game for an abysmal 36 yards, and he has just one score in

Sleepers

Each week we will identify three players worth taking a shot on in deeper leagues.

Vernon Davis, TE, Washington Redskins—Kirk Cousins is playing MVP-caliber football, and with Jordan Reed dealing with an AC joint injury Davis should be an integral part of the offense.

Rex Burkhead, WR, Cincinnati Bengals—Burkhead actually out-snapped Jeremy Hill in Week 12 (the latter left for a bit with an injury), and he out-rushed him as well with just five carries. He's the better pass-catching option, so he has a decent floor in the timeshare.

Marquess Wilson, WR, Chicago Bears—Despite his untimely drops in the end zone, Wilson had a nice game in with 12, leading the Bears with an 8-125-1 line. He looks like Matt Barkley's favorite option.

that time frame. Unfortunately for Olsen, Cam Newton has struggled a bit in the passing game, and is beginning to spread the ball around instead of relying on Olsen. The emergence of a consistent Ted

Ginn, Jr. detracts even further from his value, and it doesn't appear any of these factors will change soon. You're going to continue starting Olsen due to his upside, but temper your expectations.

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Which players should Yankees turn to in free agent market?

The Yankees are notorious for busting out the checkbook during the winter and bringing top-class talent to the Bronx, but last season's house-cleaning suggests they may be going into rebuilding mode. The Bombers have some promising young bats to turn to in the form of Gary Sanchez, Aaron Judge and Greg Bird, and still have some better-than-average arms like Masahiro Tanaka and Dellin Betances on their staff, but there are seven American League clubs favored to win the pennant over them for a reason.

So will Brian Cashman break the bank once more? The Yankees have been linked to the hard-throwing closer Aroldis Chapman since they dealt him to the World Series Champion Cubs at the deadline last season, mainly because of an Instagram post that Chapman made that



Would Aroldis Chapman return to the Bronx? GETTY IMAGES

ended with the phrase "#newyorkyankees bye for now."

"I think most players have had real positive experiences playing for us," Cashman told the New York Daily News regarding Chapman.

Chapman is allegedly seeking a five-year deal worth in excess of \$100 million, but there is great skepticism about what the market will bear with Kenley Jansen, Mark Melancon and other elite relievers looking for deals as well. If Chapman lands elsewhere, a reunion

with Boone Logan (.166 batting average against in 66 games for Colorado last season) would not be a bad idea.

The Yankees have also been connected to Edwin Encarnacion and Jose Bautista, but those rumors are largely unsubstantiated. The Daily News' Mark Feinsand has said that Carlos Beltran or Mike Napoli would make the most sense for the club given its current status, as neither veteran slugger would command more than a two-year deal. ROBERT CRISCOLA

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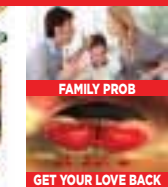
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Across

- 1 Reindeer herders
- 6 Makes candles
- 10 Just for guys
- 14 Mr. Goldfinger
- 15 Paul Drake's creator
- 16 Downs of "20/20"
- 17 Groovy
- 18 Anchor terminus
- 19 What never to tell (2 wds.)
- 20 Mi. above sea level
- 21 Coat for a house
- 23 Act glad
- 24 Buy a round
- 26 Two-door car
- 27 Hot-dog topper
- 29 Gentleman callers
- 31 Some poems
- 32 King and queen
- 33 Get a loan
- 36 Stay friends (3 wds.)
- 40 -- Moines
- 41 Brink
- 42 Blissful spot
- 43 Metaphysical poet
- 44 Dilapidated
- 46 "X -- the spot"
- 48 Virtual
- 49 Sandbags, maybe
- 50 Impede
- 52 Collar
- 55 He gave us a lift
- 56 Sanskrit dialect

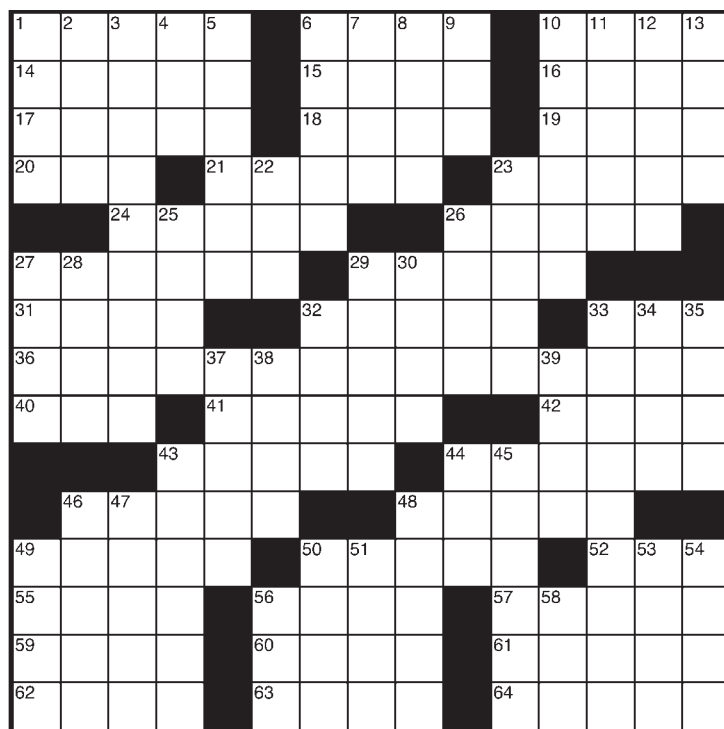
- 57 Novelist -- Zola
- 59 Hoedown honeys
- 60 Horse-trade
- 61 Polishes planks
- 62 Dispatch a dragon
- 63 Motor lodges
- 64 Frat-party wear

Down

- 1 Pre-Tina Turner
- 2 Novelist Jean --
- 3 Chatterboxes
- 4 Cherry seed
- 5 -- out (checks)
- 6 Red-ink entry
- 7 -- Man Triathlon

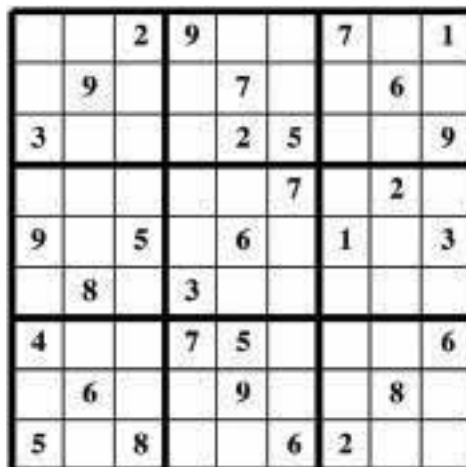
- 8 -- du jour
- 9 Firm up
- 10 Gumshoe
- 11 Spring bloomer
- 12 Like an acrobat
- 13 Clarified butter
- 22 Long sigh
- 23 Marching band composer
- 25 Gentle slope
- 26 Ungentlemanly ones
- 27 Kind of rage
- 28 Competitive advantage
- 29 Deputy's need
- 30 Buffalo's lake
- 32 Roasting ear
- 33 Predetermining
- 34 Half a fortnight
- 35 Counting-rhyme start
- 37 Draw forth
- 38 Decades
- 39 Turns right
- 43 Not casual
- 44 Prompt
- 45 Least common
- 46 Copper or zinc
- 47 St. Teresa's town
- 48 Handy swabs (hyph.)
- 49 Records, as mileage
- 50 Break of day
- 51 Joie de vivre
- 53 Tynan portrayer
- 54 She preceded Mamie
- 56 Air-pump meas.
- 58 Kind of jacket

metro.us/crossword

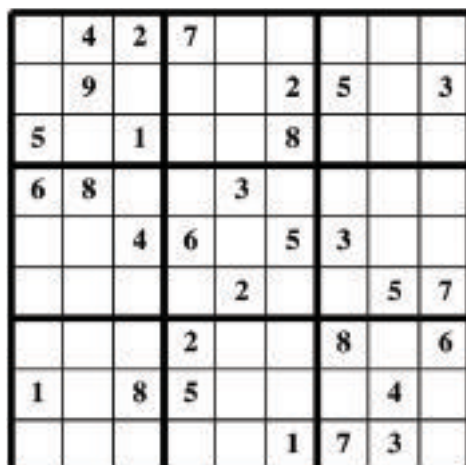


metro.us/sudoku

easy



hard



metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Your emotions may prevent you from making a good decision. Don't jump to conclusions over something that will set you back instead of helping you get ahead.



Taurus Use your ingenuity and do what you can to initiate a conversation with someone who may have something to contribute to your plans. Travel may be necessary.



Gemini You must use caution when dealing with contracts, legalities, health or financial issues. Promises will be made, but you should nonetheless get things in writing.



Cancer An emotional connection with someone quite different from you will develop into something very special. A partnership will encourage you to follow your dreams.



Leo Networking, doing things with people you love or making positive alterations at home that will encourage you to take on a new project are featured. Stay focused.



Virgo A unique partnership will develop. Use your intuitive insight to select the best route. Expect interference from someone close to you regarding your decisions.



Libra Taking part in activities that allow you to show off your skills, experience and knowledge will interest someone who has something to offer.



Scorpio Let past personal experience dictate how you move forward. Choosing a unique way to live that satisfies you mentally and physically will encourage success.



Sagittarius Stick to the facts and don't make promises you cannot keep. It's important to move forward at a steady pace and without conflict in order to avoid interference.



Capricorn An emotional plea will inspire you to voice your concerns regarding certain situations. Speak up and share your point of view as well as your suggestions and plans.



Aquarius Open talks with someone who you feel can help you reach your goal. His or her suggestions will help you make significant changes to the way you move forward.



Pisces A creative idea will bring you recognition. Don't let someone's jealousy stop you from following through with your plans. Believe and trust in yourself. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers



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